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L. lat. 961/12 REVIEW

J. H. WILKINS & R. B. CARTER  
OF  
BOSTON

# LEVERETT'S LATIN LEXICON,

The Boston Academy of Church Music.  
The Boston Handel and Haydn Society Collection of  
Church Music.  
Clementi's Sacred, or Boston, AND  
Music; by L. Mason.  
The Organ; or Organ Collection of Church Music.  
The Modern Paraphrase; by Howell Mason.

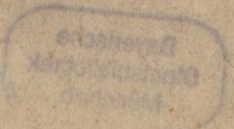
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Clementi's Sacred, or Boston, AND  
Music; by L. Mason.  
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dner. 1840.  
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BOSTON: J. H. WILKINS AND R. B. CARTER.  
1841.



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## LEVERETT'S LATIN LEXICON.

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1. *A New and Copious Lexicon of the Latin Language ; compiled chiefly from the Magnum Totius Latinitatis Lexicon of Facciolati and Forcellini, and the German works of Scheller and Lünemann.* Edited by F. P. LEVERETT. Boston: J. H. Wilkins and R. B. Carter. pp. 996.
2. *An Abridgment of Leverett's Latin Lexicon ; particularly adapted to the Classics usually studied preparatory to a Collegiate course.* By FRANCIS GARDNER, A. M., Instructor in the Public Latin School in Boston. J. H. Wilkins and R. B. Carter. 1840. pp. 419.
3. *An English-Latin Lexicon, prepared to accompany Leverett's Latin-English Lexicon.* J. H. Wilkins and R. B. Carter. pp. 318.

THE very great labor involved in the preparation of any book which professes to compare two languages, the idioms of which are so essentially different as are the English and Latin, demands for it a favorable consideration. When, however, as in the volumes named above, an attempt is made to go into the minutest details of the idiom, etymology, prosody, and, to a certain degree, of the syntactical grammar of the languages ; to investigate classical habits, manners and philosophy ; to study the turn of thought and the peculiarities of the literature of classical antiquity ; to examine the strik-

ing features of its history and mythology; to discover the means of reproducing the master-pieces of the Latin language in all ages; and to present to us, in an available form, the results of such an investigation, embracing the collected labors of the most accomplished scholars who have ever devoted their attention to such subjects, it certainly deserves the careful examination, and, if successful, the warm admiration, of all who may have occasion to avail themselves of it.

We have no desire or intention to overrate the difficulties of the task. But we believe that we shall meet with no contradiction, if we assert that hardly any two languages could be selected from those of the ancient or modern nations of Europe, differing more in the arrangement of their idioms, the construction of their sentences, and the nature of the signification of their words, than do the Latin and English. The very nature of our own language is enough to induce such a difference. Its singular union of Teutonic and Celtic roots and dialects with that which it has borrowed from the Latin, gives to its distinctive features an aspect entirely different from that of any language which claims a more simple origin. We know the great difficulty which every foreigner experiences in his endeavors to acquire it; how much greater, then, must be the difficulty of collating its words, phrases, and constructions with those of any dead language!

We must be careful, also, to remember that a knowledge of Latin, such as to enable one to cope successfully with the difficulties of which we speak, is not an every-day affair. It is one thing to read a Latin classic easily, even critically, and quite another to understand the details of the language and the several relations which they bear to each other. The rarity of this accomplishment may be perceived in the difficulty, which approaches an impossibility, experienced by every modern author who attempts to write in one of the dead languages. We believe that we speak quite within bounds, when we say that no person who has written in Latin since it ceased to be a living language, has succeeded in so exactly imitating his classical prototypes, that the modern date of his production would not be detected by a skilful classical scholar. Nor is he thus detected merely from the over-nicety or precision of his language, as those sometimes are who use a tongue which they have learned by rule merely; but because it is impossible for any author so constantly to retain in mind the precise peculiarities of the signification and history of

every Latin word, as always to use each one precisely in its proper place, although he may be able to detect many errors similar to his own in the works of another. Sir James Mackintosh has a remark on this point, which will, in a manner, illustrate our meaning. In his diary he says :—

“‘Through thick and thin,’ — ‘By hook and crook,’ — ‘With might and main,’ — were, in the time of Spenser, phrases admissible in poetry; if any writer, when English becomes a dead language, should mix these phrases with the style of Gray, he would make a jumble, probably resembling our best Latinity.”

This is undoubtedly true; and the particular examples given will be enough to suggest to the reader's mind many others, which would go far to add to the incongruity of this jumbled English. It is evident, then, that the mere circumstance, that many men can readily read and write in both English and Latin, is far from proving that there is, by any means, a general knowledge of the niceties of the comparison of the idioms of the two languages. The first of these acquirements is comparatively superficial and easy of attainment; the other is one which is perhaps never acquired by a single individual, and its results can only be arranged in a form suitable for general reference by the united labor of many scholars.

In mentioning, as we do, niceties of meaning and of idiom, and details of style and construction, we do not wish to deal in unmeaning general terms. If this were the proper place, we could adduce examples without number, to illustrate the niceties and details to which we refer. Any one who has the slightest knowledge of any of the dead languages, will understand their nature. To say nothing of the differences of the origin of the English and Latin languages — we see at once that nations, whose habits of thought, whose manners, history, philosophy, and politics, are of a nature so entirely different from ours, as were those of the ancient republics, must have had many entirely different ideas; and, consequently, a vocabulary of a nature entirely different from ours. Nations whose languages are formed on national characteristics, climate, and associations, at entire variance with each other, must have very different idioms and constructions. The attempt to compare them is not unlike that of teaching a deaf and dumb person, unused to any communication but by general signs, the manner of reading a written language. He wants that which makes it

so easy to others — the perfect familiarity with spoken words. In comparing a dead with a living language, we want the perfect familiarity with the ideas conveyed, and with the ancient habits of thought and expression, which we can have in the study of any of the modern languages. In thus speaking of the study of Latin, we mean, of course, its accurate and precise study. It may be superficially acquired, and to much profit, also, with as little labor as most languages.

Comparatively little assistance for the faithful execution of this task, can, from the nature of the case, be derived from the older English philologists. The very existence of a dictionary, as we now understand the word, was impossible, till within the three last centuries, before which period, many of the other branches of criticism, of much less importance than this, had attained a vigorous growth. It was not, indeed, till late in the seventeenth century that our language was so far settled, that any studies founded on its existing state at any particular period, would be of much use to subsequent critics; and long after that time, the minds of the scholars who turned their attention to such branches as lexicography, were so completely imbued with the spirit and idiom of a dead language, that they were not able to treat of their own in its purity. Their English is, after all, rather a Latin-English, than the language which was used by their countrymen. So far, too, as mere definitions of words are concerned, no direct information, of course, could be derived from ancient authors. The Roman grammarians treated, at great length, and in detail, of the construction of their language, and the powers of its several parts; modern grammarians, therefore, have had something ancient on which to build their labors; but, excepting this, the lexicographer has no direct aid, but is obliged to obtain his results by a constant, persevering application to the whole field of classical study.

The mere creation of a vocabulary, however, in which the definitions of the words in one language shall be explained by corresponding words in another, is, as we have implied, but the smallest part of his labors. Any treatise on synonyms, or any course of classical reading, will show how nice are the shades of meaning between different words; these shades it is his duty to point out with care, that the student may not be misled so as to misunderstand the real relation between different words in the same language. Again; he will find



many words which will have no correlative terms in English; these he must explain as he best can by circumlocution. He will find, also, that one party of philosophers use a certain set of words in one sense, while another party give them quite a different one; and the causes and results of this difference come into his field of inquiry. The words which he will have to explain will frequently be technical terms, and here, if he does his duty thoroughly, he will attempt to exhibit their origin and real signification. Locke, in speaking on a similar subject to that before us, alludes to this difficulty — of expressing in one language names of objects and terms in art unknown to the people who use another — and suggests that small pictures might be advantageously introduced into our lexicons to explain the meanings of words which have no correlative terms. If the lexicographer does not adopt this somewhat clumsy expedient, he will find himself obliged to make a free use of explanatory language whenever he comes to one of such terms.

An extract from Mr. Leverett's preface will still further explain this point:

"There seems to be no valid reason why a dictionary, certainly of an ancient language, may not, in some measure, assume the form of an encyclopedia, if fuller illustration of the meaning and use of words is thereby afforded; more especially, as such a work must needs fall into the hands of many who are scantily furnished with the means of information upon the auxiliary departments of history, antiquities, etc., not to say grammar. In such a case, the work is better overdone, than come tardy off. It is hoped, then, that the occasional detail, which has been indulged in, with respect to these accessory matters, so far from being viewed as superfluous, will prove some recommendation to the work. It will be perceived, for instance, that in such words as *castra*, *circus*, and the like, and especially in the names of public officers, (as *consul*, *tribunus*, etc.,) many things are introduced which, though strictly belonging to the province of antiquities, throw light upon the meaning of the words and their derivatives. It will also be observed, that in accordance with the same principle, much care has been bestowed upon proper names and their derivative adjectives and substantives. This, it is presumed, is none the less important for having been hitherto so much neglected. The vast and imposing mythology of the ancients was admirably adapted for the groundwork of their poetry; and the poets have, accordingly, built much upon it. It being thus, in a measure, the staple of their works, it is not surprising that passing allusions are made to their mythical gods and heroes with a



frequency which can never be approached in similar cases in any modern language; and that, from the names of these illustrious personages, they have formed various epithets—as the flexible nature of their languages, especially the Greek, enabled them to do—which would be utterly unintelligible without some acquaintance with their fabulous traditions. The same remark applies with equal force to those ancient cities and hills, which had become consecrated by so many recollections, that their names were the property of the poet. No one would guess that *Perimedeus* meant *magical*, or that *Titania astra* meant the *sun*, or what *equus Trojanus* would denote, in its figurative sense, unless he had some knowledge of the derivation of these words. This holds good, also, of other similar derivative adjectives. When we find in Catullus *Odissem te odio Vatiniano*, this is a riddle to us, till we learn that Cicero, by his raillery and sarcasm, made his enemy, Vatinus, the object of such hatred, that *odium Vatinianum* became a by-word. Examples of this kind might be multiplied almost without number.”

The reader will at once perceive over how wide a field such a plan of operations as that thus laid down will take the lexicographer. The technicalities of every art must fall under his eye, the original meaning of every colloquial phrase, the derivation of every cant term in the language he is illustrating, must be investigated in the performance of his duties. More than this, however, he must understand enough of the different classical writers and their objects, to know exactly in what lights they themselves viewed the matters of which they wrote. He must not mistake the aim and style of one writer, by judging it, according to the rules he has laid down for another.

Recently, the means have been afforded for a much more complete exposition of ancient geography than those which our predecessors had at command. Many of the scholars of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, whose erudition on other points cannot be doubted, fell into sad errors on this point. We cannot blame them for this, certainly, for they probably knew as much of ancient geography, as any intelligent man of their time did of modern. But the age of geography had not then begun. Indeed, many of our difficulties in explaining ancient geography, and many of the strange perversions of the ancient nomenclature, arise from the barbarism of the mariners and geographers of the middle ages. The Venetian mariners contorted the Greek name of the

strait Euripus into Negripo, and hence our name Negropont for the island of Eubœa; they christened the island of Samothrace, St. Mandroche. A more natural blunder, the result of which is an odd one, was the calling Belopoulus, *La belle poule*. When such was the nomenclature of professed geographers, it is hardly wonderful if even such men as Erasmus and some of his contemporaries and successors, should be found sometimes, as they are, tripping in their ideas of geography.

At present, the study of the modern languages of the classical regions, and still more the careful survey of their geography, is doing much to improve matters in these respects. When the older commentators told their readers what Pausanias or Strabo said of any river, town, or mountain, they do not seem to have thought it possible that there could be any later authorities, but took it for granted, that, having adduced these, they had settled all disputed questions at once. In later times, since the attention of capable modern travellers has been turned to the subject, such superficial observation is entirely insufficient; and, at the same time, the labor of the critic is materially enhanced, notwithstanding his mass of new material. There are, for instance, perhaps a dozen different theories on the subject of the immediate situation of the city of Troy, and the geography of the plain of Ilium. The scholar who undertakes to ascertain the most probable of these, will subject himself to the labor of deep and careful investigation, much of which, as we have seen by Mr. Leve-rett's observations, comes into the province of the lexicographer.

The reader will see, from these remarks, how extensive the erudition and how persevering the labor necessary to any persons who attempt to make a complete Latin Lexicon. So far as regards the vocabulary, they can derive comparatively little assistance from previous English writers; they must have a complete knowledge of the language, manners, arts, and philosophy of the Romans, and they must be capable, at the same time, of laying such information before the world in a tangible form — not losing, like some critics we could name, half the advantage of their knowledge of the Latin tongue, from their ignorance of their own.

Nor, is the execution of such a work, in such a complete manner, a matter of doubtful utility, or useful merely to a small class of learned men. Considering them merely as

school-books, they are of the greatest value. We have heard it hinted, on respectable authority, that books prepared for school-books, do not require deep erudition, but that their principal merits are simplicity of arrangement and expression. Merits, these are, undoubtedly, and ought not to be neglected, but, at least in the preparation of classical books, constant precision, learning, and care, is no where more needed than in those which are to be put into the hands of the young. Give a school-boy a book where he knows he can find what he needs, if he will search for it faithfully, and you give him a new motive for action. He feels an independence in his ability to accomplish his task without constantly calling for the aid or interference of another, he feels a pride that his mental faculties are strong enough to be exercised in the same way that men exercise theirs, that he is able to look to the reason of every thing, and understand every detail fully. If he be properly educated, these motives will have a strong influence upon him. No child, who has been properly trained, is not proud to find himself able to go alone, without constantly requiring the guidance of a superior. More than this; by putting into his hands such tools for labor, you take from him all excuse for not doing his work well. A boy soon learns how far a text-book may be relied upon for accuracy in its directions, and the moment any serious flaw is detected in it, that moment he feels himself privileged to neglect its instructions entirely. He will always have an excuse for rejecting them, substituting the supposed superior intelligence of his own imagination. School-books, then, must be thorough and strictly accurate; and the remark applies with peculiar force to such as those before us, which are intended for constant reference.

Nor is the value of such thoroughly executed works less to another great body of readers of the classical languages; those who read for their amusement or the direct acquisition of information. These have no time to go into philological or critical research as to the bearing and weight of the words they fall in with; they must have, in a condition fit for use, all such information provided for them, that they need have no labor imposed upon them, beyond that of understanding the immediate meaning of the author with whom they are engaged.

We have, however, perhaps, said too much on these points. The very great value of an accurate and thorough Latin Lexi-

con, might have been taken for granted, and the tremendous difficulty of making it presupposed. We should then have only to begin by saying, that Mr. Leverett's *Lexicon* will be found such; in its preparation every obstacle seems to have been surmounted, and every precaution used. For comprehensiveness of plan, for accuracy of detail, for general skill and philosophical arrangement of its contents, for the precision and correctness of its statements, for the care of its execution, and the beauty and exactness of its outward appearance, it is, so far as we know, without a rival. Whoever makes it his counsellor soon begins to rely upon it as an almost unerring authority. In a single volume, the student finds that for which he has been accustomed to seek in many different quarters; besides a vocabulary, he finds, in its careful notations of quantity, the advantages of a *gradus*; in its full quotations from authorities, he finds little need for the cumbrous volumes of a *thesaurus*; and its explanations of ancient geography and art, leave him little to look for in treatises of a more restricted character. We know that this is high praise; we have not uttered it, however, without well weighing our words, and without a full knowledge, derived from daily experience, of the book of which we write. We propose to proceed to show, by a slight examination of the manner in which the book was edited, the cause of the success of its execution, and, we believe, we may give the reader, at the same time, some idea of the immense labor requisite in such a composition. Of the very accurate and skilful abridgment of Leverett's work, the title of which stands at the head of this article, we shall have occasion to speak before we have done.

The increased attention paid to the practical, by modern men of science, has had its effect in critical as well as in other researches. The scholars of the middle ages were more apt to seek the best occasions for measuring their wits with their contemporaries, than for adding to the real stock of available knowledge. More recently, however, men have worked with a more utilitarian spirit, and with much greater real effect. More than this; the pride which once prevented an author from consulting a predecessor, or at best, made him look on his labors with a prejudiced eye, has long since subsided. Men are too well satisfied that it is impossible for one person to acquire perfect knowledge of any one subject by his unassisted exertions, to make any pretensions to such

acquisitions. So that where the monkish scholar of the middle ages, would, partly by choice and partly from necessity, produce, with immense labor, an imperfect, though an original work, more recent critics are enabled to avail themselves of the exertions of others with better grace, and greater ease. Mr. Leverett's Lexicon, as we learn from the title-page and preface, is "compiled chiefly from the *Magnum Totius Latinitatis* of Facciolati and Forcellini, and the German works of Scheller and Lünemann." A slight investigation of the history of those works and their claim to our attention, will not be out of place here.

The Lexicon formerly in best repute in the Italian schools appears to have been that known as the Calepine Lexicon, which had undergone revisions from various hands, till, in the year 1715, the duty of preparing a new edition of it was undertaken by Facciolati, a professor in the University of Padua. On this labor he employed himself for four years, during which time he tells us, he became more and more satisfied that there were so many changes necessary in that work that nothing of value could be effected, excepting in the form of an entirely new book. In the year 1718, accordingly, he undertook his "*Corpus Totius Latinitatis*," at the suggestion, or with the permission, of the heads of the University, who directed him to select some of the students to assist him in the execution of it. Thus encouraged, he selected Ægidius Forcellini, who had previously assisted him, and who subsequently bore much of the labor of the undertaking. The account given by him of his performance of this duty is singular, and reflects much credit on him, and much authority to the book itself. For instance: "About the end of 1718," he says, "by the directions of Cardinal Cornelius, Bishop of Padua, and of Professor James Facciolati, I eagerly began this great undertaking, and occupied myself for three years and a half on the letter A." When such was the slowness of the progress of the work at its very beginning, the reader will hardly wonder that its completion did not take place till 1755, forty years after the first work was begun, during the whole of which time, with the exception of seven years, Forcellini was occupied upon it, almost always as his only employment. At the close of his preface he writes, "by God's permission, I have brought this book to an end, and now, if my life is granted to me, I shall re-read it, and then deliver it to another to copy." A postscript to this informs us that

he completed his second reading in about two years. The copying was finished in eight years more; he died before it was finished.

The *Lexicon* was in fact the labor of his life. He constantly enjoyed the advice, and acted, probably, in great measure, under the directions, of Facciolati; but he appears to have devoted himself to it with untiring zeal and perseverance. It is a worthy monument to his labors. Its name expresses its nature, better than many such titles do. It is, emphatically, a systematic digest of the Latin language, a book in which the student who is searching for ancient authorities can hardly fail to find at hand such as he needs. Its quotations from the ancient authors are very numerous, and at the same time full; there is given in most instances the whole of a passage, any part of which is needed as an illustration. We believe we speak within bounds when we say that it exhibits more labor and erudition than any other work written on the same subject, and with the same object, that has ever been published. It is enriched by the most copious references to the Latin authors, its decisions are carefully made, and its results skilfully obtained. It may be a fanciful theory, but we are inclined to believe that the circumstance of the birth-place of its authors was an assistance to them in their labors. Using a language which bears the strongest impress of the Latin, they must have found it more easy to acquaint themselves with ancient forms and idioms, than would critics whose vernacular was a more barbarous tongue.

Mr. Leverett has taken full advantage of the assiduous labor and natural capabilities of Forcellini and Facciolati for his purposes. Where he has used their observations, he has translated them from the Latin in which they originally stood, for only the definitions in the original work were in Italian. He has diminished the size of his book materially, by taking only those parts of quoted phrases and sentences which are immediately applicable to the word or subject under consideration; and in some instances he has omitted the quotations altogether, where there are enough left fully to illustrate the questions raised, and an additional number of instances adds merely to the length, but not to the value or importance of the article. So far, therefore, as he makes use of the *Corpus Totius Latinitatis*, and he uses it more in some parts of his book than others, he retains what is valu-

able with care, and presents it to the English scholar in a form, which he is most able to improve.

The reputation of the German scholars for patient and persevering labor, and for perfect precision, gives high authority to their productions, in a branch where these qualifications are so essential as in philological criticism or the study of classical antiquities. Scheller's work, which, as edited by Dr. Lünemann, was constantly used by Mr. Leverett, deserves no slight praise for the care displayed in its execution and its great completeness of detail. The work indeed fully bears out the reputation of German scholarship, and may be considered as embodying the results of all the later German criticism. Its plan is not so extended as that of Facciolati and Forcellini, it does not profess to be what their work is, a *Corpus Totius Latinitatis*, but a Latin Dictionary merely, and as such it is ably and very carefully executed.

Such were the principal of the materials on which Mr. Leverett began to work in the preparation of his Latin Lexicon. How skilfully and admirably he fulfilled the duty he had imposed upon himself we need not say to those who have had any occasion to make use of the result of his labors. From what we have already said, the reader will see that it was a duty necessarily involving tremendous toil; it was, however, conscientiously undertaken and completed, and the result is one for which every scholar must be thankful, and every American be proud. The student of Latin, of any degree of capacity or acquisition, will feel, in the use of this volume, that he has an authority which is neither defective nor erroneous. Whenever he has occasion to turn to a word, he will find at a glance, the quantity of its syllables, its derivation, its primitive meaning, and the manner in which its other definitions are derived from this, and the different shades of its signification in various phrases. He will have placed before him, illustrations of the manner in which the ancient authors use it in every connection and for every signification. He will find the manner in which for different purposes it is united with other words. In instances where by any peculiarity of expression, or other singularity, any author uses it once or uniformly in a different manner from other authors, he will find the irregularity explained. As we have already suggested, he will find in it copious explanations of ancient habits, customs, geography, history, and biography, which will generally be quite sufficient for the illustration of the



author he is reading ; obtaining in it such constantly useful resources, he will soon, unless he be one of those critical scholars whose duty requires them to reject every authority easily obtained, consider it as an oracle from whose decisions no appeal is necessary. We do not attempt to illustrate this general praise by special examples ; every page of the book is an example, and no scholar can examine it without finding that it supplies a want which he has before felt in his studies. We make no attempt to compare it with other works of the same nature. So far as we know, there is no book having or professing to have the same object, that has the slightest claim to competition with it.

The text-book most generally in use in this country, and we believe, in England, is Ainsworth's Latin-English Dictionary. We have already said that Mr. Leverett could derive comparatively little assistance from his predecessors in the same duty which he had undertaken. We ought, perhaps, to attempt to discharge part of a debt of gratitude to Ainsworth, due from the scholars of the last century, in acknowledging his to be a work of great erudition, and the result of untiring labor. He was engaged upon it, as he tells us, twenty years. It is, perhaps, no bad example of the nature of the classical learning of his time, and of how much one man's erudition may be worth, when, in a great measure, unassisted. It was, however, defective, and very frequently incorrect. It is somewhat singular that it has retained its hold on general favor so long as it has, for, apparently, very little care has been bestowed upon it since the death of its author, and very few improvements made on it since that time. The various editions since published of it, have copied and added to the errors of those preceding, so that, as a general remark, that copy of it was most valuable which approached nearest to the few editions published in the life-time of its author. It is best known in this country in one of its abridged forms, in which the greater part of the original work is preserved, although many of the quotations and all the detail of references to the ancient authors are omitted. It is a somewhat singular evidence that the alterations made in it in the last hundred years are so small, that an inconsistency of Ainsworth in the manner of exhibiting the conjugations of the verbs, resulting, probably, from his changing his mind after he had fairly begun his work, has been preserved in all the editions till a very recent time.

The last one hundred years, however, have made a very great advance in classical criticism ; so much so, that we believe very few instructors have been obliged to use Ainsworth's dictionary, without a regret that they could put nothing better into the hands of their pupils. While the dictionary alone has remained stationary, if, indeed, it has not retrograded, by the errors constantly creeping in, in the process of revision, classical knowledge and criticism have been rapidly advancing in the hands of learned and persevering men. The advanced student must have felt it still less suitable to his purposes ; Ainsworth wrote, as he says, for boys, and his work was not even professedly a thorough one. The man who has acquired a knowledge of the language so far that he can read it for amusement or instruction, does not want a mere vocabulary, such as Ainsworth thought would do for the school-boy ; he wants a book in which he can find an explanation of any idiom, however rare or singular its occurrence, of any construction, however unusual. Such a volume he has in the work of Mr. Leverett.

It will be readily perceived, however, and we have no wish to deny, that in such an encyclopedia of the Latin tongue there will be much of which the young student will never make use, and which, consequently, though it may never be prejudicial to him, will at least swell the size of the volume much beyond what is at all necessary for his wants. In order, therefore, to adapt Mr. Leverett's *Lexicon* more particularly for the use of school-boys, by reducing its size by the omission of those heads and articles which are entirely useless to them, an abridgment of it has been published, expressly adapted for their use. This abridgment, the title of which we have placed at the head of this article, was executed by Mr. Francis Gardner, a gentleman who has for some years been engaged in classical pursuits, as a teacher in the Public Latin School in Boston, whose perfect accuracy and knowledge of the subject were a sufficient guarantee that his work would be skillfully and ably performed.

To the manner in which it is executed we wish to call the reader's attention. Of an Encyclopedia of the Latin language, it is desired to preserve those parts which are useful to a school-boy, and reject the rest. Those words which will recur in his earlier studies must be inserted, with such definitions as will be necessary there ; those phrases which he will meet with must be retained, as well as all the expla-

nations of ancient science, art, customs, philosophy, history, and geography, which he will need. We once saw an abridgment of Ainsworth, prepared for boys by omitting all the phrases which illustrate the definitions, while all the definitions were retained, a system hardly more sensible than that which, for purposes of brevity, should publish only the first half of the volume. The only reasonable method of abridging is that which shall be made on such principles as we have described, and the reader will at once see what a careful discrimination, and thorough knowledge of books, it must require. To the other qualifications of a good lexicographer which we have mentioned, it adds as a requisite, full knowledge of the details of every book on which the school-boy will be exercised, that the dictionary may be prepared to meet all his wants. Such is the nature of the labor which was undertaken by Mr. Gardner, and by him very ably performed. The following extract from the preface to the abridgment will explain the precise details of the execution of it:—

“ The objections to abridgments, as usually prepared, are so valid and well founded, that it has been thought best to execute the present work on a plan differing, in several respects, from any heretofore adopted. In pursuance of this, only the words occurring in those authors which are usually read previously to the college course, — namely, Virgil, Cicero’s Select Orations, (including the Oration for Muræna,) Sallust, Gould’s Ovid, Cæsar’s Commentaries on the Gallic War, Cornelius Nepos, and Phædrus, together with those which occur in the Key of Andrews’s Latin Exercises, — have been admitted. These words, with their respective definitions, have, in most cases, been inserted *entire*; the abridgment consisting chiefly in erasing a part of the citations from the authors in which they are found. In all cases, however, a sufficient number of examples has been retained to illustrate the meaning and construction of the word.”

Such is the general plan of the Abridgment; and if we have said so much of the difficulty in the way of the editor as to lead the reader to believe it impossible for him to have performed his task thoroughly, we would only ask him to examine, as we have done, the volume carefully, to test it by a short experience, and he will find it quite as well adapted for its purpose, as Mr. Leverett’s has proved to be for its purposes. Thoroughly executed as it is, on a plan so manifestly correct, it could not well have been otherwise.

The mere abridgment, however, is not the only way in which the work has been adapted for schools. Whole articles have been entirely re-written, the arrangement of definitions and phrases and their dependence on each other changed, that the scholar may more easily understand the full force of each ; and if we have made ourselves understood in what we have said of the nature of a well executed school-book, these additions will be acknowledged to be such as will be real aids to the careful scholar. In the manner in which it was printed, Mr. Leverett's book did not expose at once to the eye the different classes of meanings so fully as it might have done, a difficulty which is quite obviated in this volume, where the arrangements of type and headings are such as to make the classification quite apparent even in the rapid glances of a hurried school-boy. This improvement, after very slight use, is so evident that we are surprised it has not been made before.

Nor are these the only alterations made for his benefit. As he is supposed to consult the dictionary with a view only to its use in a certain class of books, those which he uses in his course of education preparatory to college, it has been more particularly fitted for that class by the substitution, in many instances, for Latin quotations from authors with which he cannot be acquainted, those which he will meet in his earlier studies. Whoever remembers how rejoiced he was in his boyish studies to find a knotty phrase explained and illustrated in his dictionary, will not regret that the number of such helps should be enlarged.

The abridgment is not, however, by any means so closely fitted to its more peculiar object as to exclude other matter of importance not strictly included in its original plan. There is no disposition shown in it to withhold information merely because it may not be wanted. We find many definitions which will not be used in the preparatory course, which are not, however, unimportant to the learner, as means of acquainting him with the origin of the various derivations of a word, — information, the clearness of which would be seriously impaired by the omission of any link in the chain of connected meanings ; of reminding him occasionally of the wide field of classical research which will be open to him after he has passed the ordinary course of introduction ; and more than all, perhaps, of assisting him in his exertions in Latin composition, a branch of education which cannot be

too much encouraged. As a method of impressing firmly principles of construction and details of idiom, it is without an equal in the process of education; and when we see the great effect it has in purifying and correcting the ideas of the young respecting the Latin language, we are little inclined to wonder that there have been theorists who wished to make it the only key for opening to them a knowledge of that language.

We are glad, therefore, that in this volume every facility of the kind of which we have spoken is afforded to the young Latinist. And in the same light do we view the constant care in both the volumes of which we write, to display the derivations of the words, and to give accurately the quantity of their syllables. The tracing of words to their roots, and the detection of their original and acquired meaning, is a branch of criticism of which the young are perfectly capable, and a proper attention to which will greatly facilitate and render much more agreeable their exertions in that which is the only irksome part of the task of learning a foreign language,—the acquiring its vocabulary. We have spoken above of the care Mr. Gardner has used in exposing the dependence and connection of different words; by calling the attention of the pupil to these heads, and to the proper formation of words from their roots, we shall always interest and improve him more in the performance of his task. Nor should this study of derivation be turned merely to such words as are of Latin origin. The connection between the Latin and Greek languages is so close that the scholar's attention should be carefully turned to it, and a pupil who is sufficiently advanced to know a little of Greek words and idioms, will always be interested in investigating this. The volumes before us afford ample materials for such researches. We speak of this with more interest, because we fear it has not received in our academies and schools the attention which it ought.

For the same reason we are very glad that these two Lexicons, in giving, with almost undeviating accuracy, the quantity of the several syllables of the words, afford valuable material for the careful study of Latin prosody, that its principles may be acquired to a wider extent, than they are in the acquisition of the mere knowledge of the structure of a verse, that the scholar may be able to do something more than what he does in dividing a line with tolerable accuracy.

The skilful composing of Latin verse is a matter which has higher importance than as a pretty accomplishment, although it undoubtedly is a very worthy and scholarlike one, and we hope to see it one day introduced into our schools and colleges more generally than it is now. There was a certain difficulty in this when young poets had no better authority at hand in framing their verses than the Ainsworth's Dictionaries of which we have spoken, of many of which it might be boldly said, that the marks of quantity, in all doubtful cases, deserved not the slightest respect, being quite as often wrong as right. The great accuracy with which these volumes are printed, places their notes of quantity above suspicion, and their copious extracts from the poets add to their value in this respect.

That part of these volumes which is intended to assist the scholar in changing English into Latin is by Mr. H. W. Torrey, of Boston. After what we have said of the great care and labor necessary for the proper performance of the duty imposed in the Latin-English part, we need add little of that in this branch of lexicography. In the words of Mr. Torrey, —

"It is always much easier to render foreign into native words, than native into foreign. In the one case, each word, which is given as the signification of another, serves for a sign, which admits of a wide application; in the other, a word only points to a single step. In the one, the unknown is expressed in terms of the known; in the other, the familiar is exhibited in the form of the unfamiliar. Besides this difficulty, common to all languages, there are peculiar obstacles to overcome in conveying a modern language into an ancient. A living tongue is always pliant. It readily adopts and assimilates new expressions for new ideas, by giving a new tinge to words already in use, by naturalizing foreign terms, or by a direct creation. In this way it passes down from age to age without growing old. A dead language, on the contrary, being no longer kept supple by daily use, is rigid and unyielding. Additions, instead of growing into its body, must often bear the appearance of appendages merely, and thus proclaim their own strangeness. Yet, such additions must be made, or expression will be hampered by clumsy circumlocutions, and unwieldy descriptions take the place of significant names."

A work so prepared as to meet these difficulties and present to the classical scholar a manual for his use in translating English into Latin, was much needed. The old English

lexicographers seem to have considered it quite as important as the other branch of their duties. But, from the nature of the case, the changes in the English language affected this much more than it did the other part of the Lexicon. Whatever might be the purity of its English, a Latin-English lexicon will always be complete, if complete when published; because its articles relate to a dead language, which admits of no change from generation to generation; while, on the other hand, new idioms and phrases have constantly been introducing themselves into our language, which require admission into the English-Latin part of the lexicon.

The plan which Mr. Torrey proposed to himself, and the manner in which he executed it, will be best explained by the following extract from his preface :

"Notwithstanding these hinderances, it was hoped that something might be put together, which, though it could not but be imperfect, should at least be methodical and clear. As the same idea is often expressed by the use of different parts of speech in different connections, it seemed conducive to clearness, especially in so succinct a work, to bring derived words under their primitives, distinguished, however, by a smaller type. This has been, in some cases, extended to words not strictly derived, but only cognate; the objection to such a course is, that oftentimes so great a dislocation of alphabetical order is produced, as to render it difficult to find a word. This difficulty has been obviated, either by adhering in such cases to that order, or by giving the word under its primitive, and referring thither from its alphabetical place. The liberty has also been taken of omitting many words which seemed to be of slight importance. Some pages, thus arranged, were shown to Mr. Leverett, and met with his approval.

"But it was soon found impossible, from the slowness with which the work advanced, even to carry out this plan, and it was accordingly broken off at the word *Commence*. No course then remained but to take some manual already in use, and improve it, as far as was possible, in a limited time. Ainsworth's dictionary most readily presented itself, and the rest of this book, (being about five sixths of the whole,) is made up mainly of that. The work of Ainsworth has many faults, so many, indeed, that to correct them entirely would be as laborious as to make a new book. Among other things, it is so confusedly thrown together, that even what is there is not easily found. To this point attention has been chiefly directed. The whole has been wrought into a more orderly arrangement, which presents each part of speech by itself, and accords with what had already been furnished."—"Various other alterations, as many as time would allow, have been introduced throughout. Articles



have been entirely, or almost entirely, written anew, and much that was incorrect or redundant has been stricken out. It is hoped that, in this form, the work may be found to have gained in usefulness."

We cannot but regret that the circumstances he has mentioned prevented Mr. Torrey from carrying out his original design. A new English-Latin lexicon would have been a very valuable addition to our treasures in classical philological science. The Lexicon he has presented us, however, is so great an improvement on what we have had before, that we feel that we have no right to complain. With what he says in his preface—of the want of arrangement in Ainsworth's Latin dictionary—every scholar who ever used that book will fully agree. We can freely say, we never consult any article in that work, which evinces any labor, without wondering what could have been the leading idea in the author's mind as to the arrangement of his facts. They are huddled together in actual chaos. All this obscurity Mr. Torrey has made it his duty to enlighten. The several articles, as he has arranged them, are such that one may have some hope of ascertaining what they do and what they do not contain.

He has been quite too modest in his statements of his improvements. He has evidently exerted himself to exchange the pedantic, middle-aged, corrupted Latin, for which Ainsworth shows a remarkable predilection, for more elegant and more classical language; he has condensed many of the fearful circumlocutions which used to alarm the inquirer for a forgotten word; he has omitted many articles which could never but excite wonder that they were ever there, and has inserted many, in instances where the wonder is that they were not. In short, the work is well fitted to go forth as a companion to the labors of Mr. Leverett and Mr. Gardner.

The great accuracy and care observable in the mechanical execution of these volumes deserve more than a passing notice. We have seen that accuracy is no where more requisite than in books of this nature; and it is quite as much so in the minutiae of typographical detail as in particulars generally esteemed more important. The difficulty of correcting the press in works involving a knowledge of a foreign language is so great, that Latin books as accurately printed as these, are very seldom met with.

To conclude; either of the two volumes, the school-book or

the Latin Cyclopedia, if we may call it so, to each of which Mr. Torrey's Lexicon is attached, is very highly creditable to all who were engaged in its publication. They are works which have been long needed, and they are executed in a manner which leaves hardly any thing to desire, but compels the scholar to wonder that he has been able to do without them so long as he has. We welcome them as most acceptable additions to the stores of critical learning.

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